(c) if so, the details thereof and the quantum of generation of power (in megawatts) by Bihar itself?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) Bihar Government has requested for an additional allocation of 200 MW power from NTPC Stations in Eastern Region (ER).

(b) and (c) Power supply to Bihar from the NTPC stations in the ER was, regulated, after serving due notice, *w.e.f.* 21st March, 2006 due to default in payment by Bihar State Electricity Board (BSEB) to NTPC for the period December, 2005 — January, 2006 in accordance with the provisions contained in the Power Purchase Agreement between BSEB and NTPC and Tripartite Agreement (TPA) between Government of India, Government of Bihar and Reserve Bank of India.

However, regulation of power supply to Bihar from NTPC stations was withdrawn after payment of entire dues of Rs. 357.5 crores of NTPC upto March, 2006 by Government of Bihar on 8th April, 2006 and compliance of condition of letter of credit.

Bihar was having an allocation of 1019 MW from the NTPC stations in Eastern Region which was enhanced by 50 MW *w.e.f.* 13th April, 2006. Thus, the total allocation of power to Bihar is 1069 MW as on date.

The details of the quantum of generation of power by Bihar's own generating stations for the year 2005-06 are given below:

Station	Installed Capacity (MW)	Generation (Average MW)
Barauni TPS	320	14
Muzaffarpur	220	0
Total Thermal	14	—
Hydro	44.9	8.6

Pilferage of power

*426. DR. K.MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that out of the total electrical energy generated, around 55 per cent is billed and 20 per cent is lost by theft, according to a leading magazine;

(b) whether it is also a fact that political patronage is the main cause for this pilferage; and

(c) the effective measures envisaged to check this evil and in what manner and by when?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) As reported by State Power Utilities 69.87% of the power available to them for sale was billed during 2004-05 implying that 30.13% of the energy available for sale was lost, which includes losses due to technical reasons, theft, pilferage etc. Out of 69.87% which is billed 94.72% is collected.

(b) No such instance of political patronage to pilferage has been -brought to the notice of Ministry of Power by any Utility.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to reduce the transmission and distribution losses including theft are:

(i) Metering of 11KV feeders and consumer metering;

(ii) Energy accounting and auditing;

(iii) Strengthening the provisions, relating to theft of power in Electricity Act, 2003;

(iv) Upgradation and strengthening of sub-transmissions distribution system under Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programmes (APDRP);

(v) Ingentivising for reduction of cash losses by State power utlities under APDRP;

(vi) Introduction of High Voltage Distribution System (HVDS); and

(vii) Introduction of lT applications.

Research and development work

*427. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several American biotech companies have expressed their keenness to off-shore their research and development work to India; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposal recieved in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes Sir.